SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5235**

5							8	
	9				3			
3				2				1
		3				4	2	9
2							3	7
		4		7	2			6
	2					9		8
6			4	9	5			
7	4			8			5	

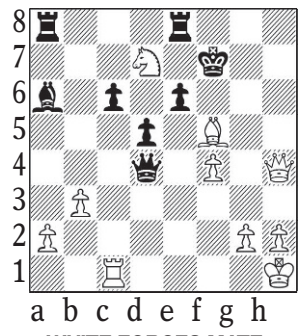
TRICKY **B5235**

				5				
	6	5		4	3			
1	9	4						2
	4				9			
9	2		7					1
			8			6		
		2					3	
						4		
7	3	6		1				5

To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CHESS



WHITE FORCES MATE

HINT: Finish with the bishop.

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD
PERCEPTIVE

(PERCEPTIVE: per-SEP-tiv: Discerning or observant.)

AVERAGE MARK 29 WORDS

Time limit 60 minute

Can you find 55 or more words in PERCEPTIVE?

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

YESTERDAY'S WORD — ESTRONE

enter	sore	tenser	rest
erne	sort	tensor	rose
erose	steer	tern	rote
seen	steno	terse	onset
seer	stereo	tone	nest
senor	stern	toner	nester
sent	stone	tore	noes
sere	stoner	torn	nose
sneer	store	tree	note
snore	teen	rent	
snort	tenor	resent	
sone	tense	reset	

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
PTCL Complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111- 001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

METRO EVENTS

MUSIC

An evening of classical music with Ustad Mehmood Ali Khan and his students is organised at T2F at 7:30pm.

PLAY

Mulaqaat is staged as part of the World Culture Festival, at Studio 2, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 6pm.

FUNFAIR

A family funfair featuring entertainment, shopping, food & much more, is held at Habitt City, at 5pm.

ART FESTIVAL

'Grand Arts Festival 2025' is underway at Port Grand & Art Lane Gallery at 6pm.

FILM

Dukhtar is screened as part of the World Culture Festival, at Auditorium 2, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 4pm.

IN MEMORIAM

An event in the memory of Rahat Saeed on his first death anniversary is organised at the Irtiqa Institute of Social Sciences, Al Ahmed Mansion, University Road, at 4pm.

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

*** For the rest of this month you can finish writing projects, college papers and legal or medical matters. On the downside, Mercury retrograde could trigger travel delays and misunderstandings. Tonight: Relax. This Week: Finances look good. Ask for a loan.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

**** The rest of this month is the perfect time to finish tasks related to taxes, debt, inheritances or shared property, loans or mortgages. Mercury retrograde will bring delays and mistakes, but also help you to wrap up old business. Tonight: Learn. This Week: Partnerships and friendships are smooth.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

*** You might hear from ex-spouses, partners and old friends — in person, online — in your dreams this month. Others might rekindle a relationship. Tonight: Check your money. This Week: You'll enjoy working hard, getting stuff done.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

**** Matters related to your job or your daily tasks will be dogged by goofy mistakes, errors, delays, late shipments, mixed-up communications and missed appointments. These are the classic ills of Mercury retrograde, which lasts all month. Tonight: You're strong. This Week: Social outings, vacations, sports and kids' activities. Enjoy!

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

*** For the rest of this month, Mercury retrograde will attract old flames and romantic partners from your past in person, in your dreams or online. Likewise, children you haven't seen for a while or old issues with your kids will resurface. Tonight: Solitude. This Week: Relax at home. Redecorate and entertain.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

**** Mercury is your ruler, and it will be retrograde for the rest of this month. Expect to hear from family members you haven't been in contact with for a while. Stock the fridge. Be ready for anything. Someone might be camped on your doorstep. Tonight: Friendships. This Week: Short trips, meetings, conversations. You're on the go!

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

*** You might encounter goofy errors, mixed-up communications, missed appointments, late deliveries and meeting people from your past for the rest of this month — at least. Tonight: You're noticed. This Week: Look for ways to get richer.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

**** This month keep an eye on your money and possessions, and double-check financial negotiations. If you're at a restaurant or buying goods, check the bill. Keep your receipts. Checks in the mail will be late. Tonight: Explore! This Week: It's a good time to buy wardrobe items.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

**** Mercury will be retrograde in your sign for the rest of this month. Expect to run into ex-spouses, partners and old friends. Misplaced items, confused communications and silly mistakes might dog your steps, but you can also finish old business! Tonight: Check your finances. This Week: Exercise, schmooze and enjoy private times.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

**** The rest of this month is an excellent time to do research. You will easily dig up answers from the past and find solutions to old problems. There will be "looping backward" that helps you finish old business. Tonight: Listen. This Week: A friendly week. A friendship might turn romantic.

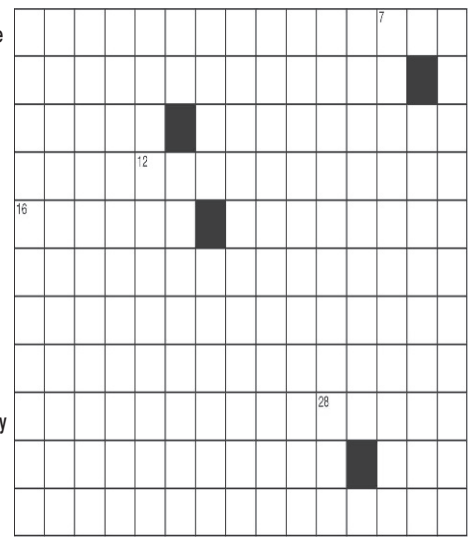
AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

*** For the rest of this month, Mercury is retrograde in your House of Friendships triggering contact with old faces you haven't seen for a while. Look your best so you can make a great impression. Tonight: Work. This Week: You're admired. Go after what you want!

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

**** For the rest of this month, Mercury retrograde will attract opportunities for you to run into old bosses, parents and authority figures you haven't seen for a while. This could be good, or not. Be aware of this. Tonight: Socialize. This Week: Travel, learn and explore!

THE SKELETON CROSSWORD



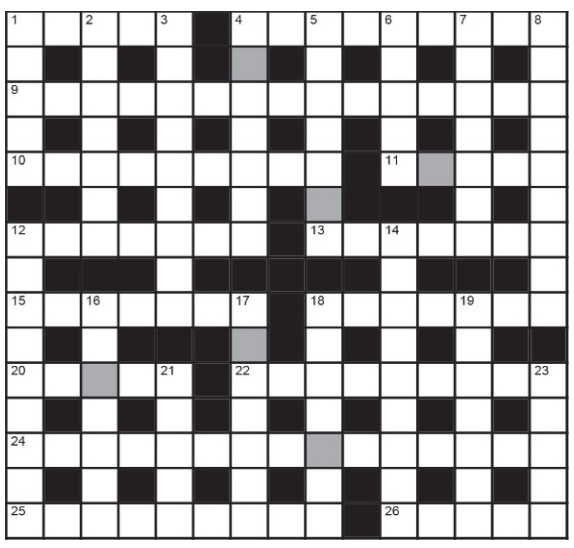
ACROSS

1 A Nordic teen is awfully rude
10 Suggest first offender gets fine
11 Revolutionary covering everything plain
12 Agent many champion to succeed
16 Relief follows end of summer storm
17 Smart Greek character first to cave
18 Reading United bounced back
19 A Shakespeare character pared it back
21 Ball rolled past English river
23 Hook shipmate turning from communist converts
27 Particularly old westbound craft
28 Park you can enter
29 Knocked out, still sympathetic?

DOWN

2 Some knave and I think about her
3 Ring five soldiers up, no more
4 This elevated a foodstuff
5 Info dump after the action starts
6 Regret concealing large find
7 Rubbish that beginner spots
8 Judge having fallen behind forbore
9 Not with a bank? It's unimportant (Hyphenated)
13 Backstory source of endless delight
14 French place Little and Large emptied
15 Best stuff around source of envy
20 Genial head meeting a school board
22 Short stick shortened by many
23 See red cloth closer to cerise
24 Two thousand small burrows
25 Book character after all filling time
26 Root of sorts (a sweet potato)

THE SQUIRE'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Compel (5)
4 Looks into (6,3)
9 Boardroom centrepiece (10,5)
10 Care for (4,5)
11 Middle Eastern country (5)
12 Imperfection (7)
13 Shiny silk fabric (7)
15 Chemical element 33 (7)
18 From Santiago, e.g. (7)
20 Eighth letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
22 Listless (9)
24 To assist (3,3,7,2)
25 Former name of St Petersburg (9)
26 Stays fresh (5)

DOWN

1 Central (5)
2 Arthur ___, Swallows And Amazons writer (7)
3 Height (9)
4 Large spotted cat (7)
5 Extracted part (7)
6 Flown toys (5)
7 John ___, English dramatist (7)
8 On the other hand (4,5)
12 Lovely (9)
14 Shocking (9)
16 Invest by oath (5,2)
17 ___ music (7)
18 Shackled (7)
19 Plantations (7)
21 Pale-faced (5)
23 Sleeve ends (5)

TELEWORD

By David Ouellet

W	M	E	Y	T	P	I	R	C	S	N	A	R	T	E
E	R	T	B	T	T	P	K	S	E	D	U	S	N	M
L	I	I	M	L	I	F	L	T	R	P	D	M	E	I
O	F	V	T	I	M	N	W	A	D	R	I	A	V	R
R	N	N	E	E	E	O	U	A	Y	F	O	E	E	C
E	O	I	S	M	R	E	T	M	S	E	C	T	C	E
C	I	I	S	K	K	E	B	R	M	A	R	A	C	G
O	T	S	S	S	N	R	E	S	M	O	M	S	I	A
G	A	T	A	G	A	P	E	P	P	E	C	F	S	T
N	L	I	M	N	A	H	A	E	R	S	T	R	E	S
I	S	U	D	P	C	I	R	A	D	I	O	O	H	T
T	I	S	S	N	G	T	E	K	R	A	M	Y	C	R
I	G	W	U	N	S	E	T	E	L	H	T	A	A	O
O	E	A	P	P	E	A	L	R	E	C	I	L	O	P
N	L	L	I	E	V	N	U	S	I	D	E	S	C	S

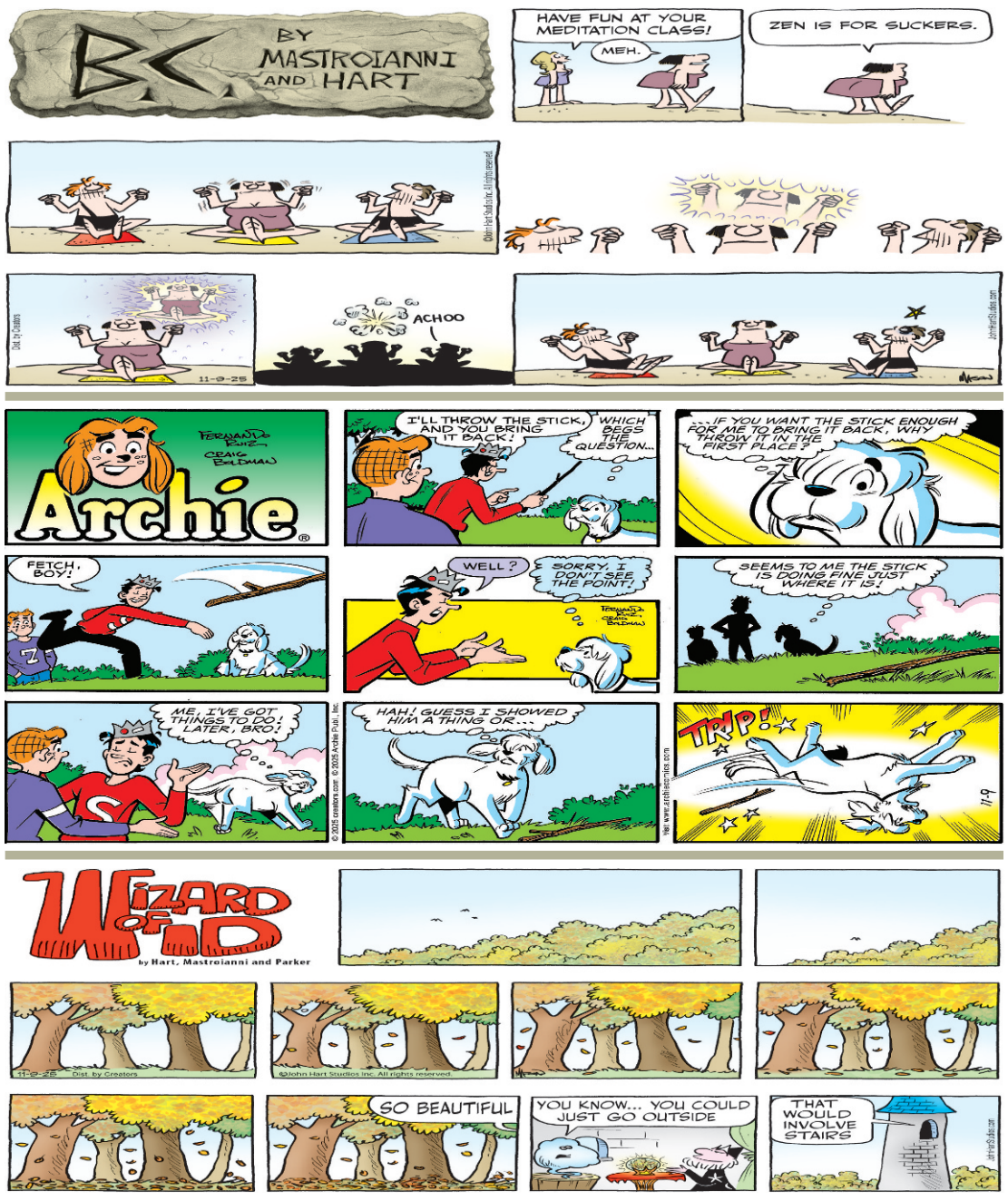
HOW TO PLAY:

All the words above appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and circle their letters. The leftover letters spell the Teleword.

PRESS CONFERENCES **SOLUTION: 9 LETTERS**

Actor, Appeal, Ask, Athletes, Audio, Brands, Camera, Campaign, Coaches, Community, Crime, Desk, Event, Film, Firm, Gift, Invite, Launches, Lawsuits, Legislation, Market, Mass, Networks, Newspapers, Players, Police, Radio, Recognition, Reporter, Role, Royals, Sides, Speakers, Sports, Stage, Teams, Terms, Time, Transcript, Unveil, Update, Writer **Answer: Briefings**

THE METRO FUNNIES


BC
BY MASTROIANNI AND HART
HAVE FUN AT YOUR MEDITATION CLASS!
MEH.
ZEN IS FOR SUCKERS.
ACHOO
11-9-25
Archie
FERNANDO RUIZ
CRAIG BOLDMAN
I'LL THROW THE STICK, AND YOU BRING IT BACK!
WHICH BEGS THE QUESTION...
...IF YOU WANT THE STICK ENOUGH FOR ME TO BRING IT BACK, WHY THROW IT IN THE FIRST PLACE?
FETCH, BOY!
WELL?
SORRY, I DON'T SEE THE POINT.
SEEMS TO ME THE STICK IS DOING FINE JUST WHERE IT IS.
ME, I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO! LATER, BRO!
HAH! GUESS I SHOWED HIM A THING OR...
TRIP!
11-9
Wizard of Id
by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker
11-9-25
SO BEAUTIFUL
YOU KNOW... YOU COULD JUST GO OUTSIDE
THAT WOULD INVOLVE STAIRS

PENTALETTA

Can you find 21 or more words containing only the five letters shown on the left? Each word must include the letter in the centre, in this case R, and must contain at least four letters, but there is no limit on the number of times you can use a letter in any word. Your list should include an accepting eight-letter word.

(Solution: next Sunday)

Average mark: 21 words • **Good:** 26 words
Excellent: 32 words • **Incredible:** 35 words

LAST SUNDAY'S SOLUTION:

effete, efts, fees, feet, feistiest, fess, fesse, fesses, fest, fete, fetes, fief, fiefs, fife, fifes, fifties, fist, fists, fits, fittest, iffiest, sift, sifts, stiff, stiffest, stiffs, tiff, tiffs.

The clued word was: TESTIFIES

LAST SUNDAY SQUIRE'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Bored, 4 Forestall, 9 Rumpelstiltskin, 10 Transmute, 11 Drama, 12 Hit home, 13 Twaddle, 15 Musings, 18 Snippet, 20 Inapt, 22 Gatecrash, 24 Toulouse-Lautrec, 25 Dwellings, 26 Tress.

Down: 1 Burst, 2 Rampant, 3 Dress down, 4 Fissure, 5 Raiment, 6 Sited, 7 Awkward, 8 Lineament, 12 Ham-fisted, 14 Agincourt, 16 Statute, 17 Signs in, 18 Settles, 19 Prairie, 21 Troll, 23 Hacks.

Prize word: Panini

LAST SUNDAY SKELETON SOLUTIONS

1 O	2 P	U	3 S	■	4 T	R	5 E	A	6 T	■	7 S	O	8 S	O
■	R	■	T	■	R	■	A	■	R	■	A	■	E	■
9 T	I	R	A	N	A	■	R	■	10 A	T	T	E	N	D
■	S	■	N	■	11 C	12 A	P	13 R	I	■	I	■	S	■
14 C	O	L	D	I	T	Z	■	15 I	L	L	E	G	A	L
■	N	■	■	■	■	16 T	O	O	■	■	■	■	T	■
17 A	G	I	18 T	A	19 T	E	■	20 J	A	C	21 K	L	I	N
■	U	■	A	■	22 E	C	23 L	A	T	■	E	■	O	■
24 G	A	R	B	L	E	■	I	■	25 O	W	N	I	N	G
■	R	■	L	■	T	■	L	■	N	■	Y	■	A	■
26 E	D	G	E	■	27 H	O	Y	L	E	■	28 A	L	L	Y

TODAY'S SOLUTIONS

CHESS

1. Qh7ch! Qg7 2. Bg6ch mate! [from Dzagnidze- Muminova '14].

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU

Quick — A5234

2	4	6	3	7	1	8	9	5
1	3	9	6	5	8	4	2	7
5	8	7	9	4	2	1	6	3
7	1	3	2	9	6	5	8	4
4	9	5	1	8	7	2	3	6
8	6	2	4	3	5	7	1	9
6	5	1	7	2	9	3	4	8
9	7	4	8	1	3	6	5	2
3	2	8	5	6	4	9	7	1

Tricky — B5234

9	5	8	6	4	2	3	7	1
6	1	7	5	3	8	2	9	4
3	2	4	1	7	9	6	8	5
4	7	3	8	1	6	5	2	9
1	6	9	2	5	7	4	3	8
2	8	5	3	9	4	1	6	7
8	4	2	7	6	1	9	5	3
5	9	6	4	8	3	7	1	2
7	3	1	9	2	5	8	4	6

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

To finesse or not to finesse

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 10 4
♥ K 8 6 4 3
♦ A 9 6
♣ J 3

WEST
♠ 9 5
♥ 10
♦ K 10 2
♣ K Q 10 8 7 6 4

EAST
♠ A J 7 6 3
♥ 9
♦ Q J 8 5 4
♣ 5 2

SOUTH
♠ Q 8 2
♥ A Q J 7 5 2
♦ 7 3
♣ A 9

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥		

Opening lead -- king of clubs.

In the absence of any pertinent clues to the contrary, a finesse is essentially a 50-50 proposition. However, this figure can change dramatically as a result of information declarer may gain during the bidding or play. For example, an opening bidder would be far more likely than his silent partner to hold a missing king, queen or ace.

Consider this deal where a shrewd declarer playing in four hearts found a way to avoid taking a finesse that was likely to fail. He won the club lead with the ace and could see three certain losers -- a club, a diamond and the ace of spades -- plus a potential fourth loser to the jack of spades.

South knew that the normal way to attack spades was to lead low toward dummy at a suitable point in the play and finesse the ten, hoping West had the jack. However, South was unwilling to put all his eggs in that one basket before he learned more about the opposing hands.

At trick two, he cashed the ace of hearts and then played the ace and another diamond. East won with the jack and led a club to West's queen. West then returned the diamond king, ruffed by declarer.

By now, South knew that West had started with one heart, at least three diamonds and presumably seven clubs for his three-club bid. West therefore had at most two spades, which in turn meant that East had at least five. East was therefore much more likely to hold the jack of spades than West.

So, instead of leading a spade to the ten, South led a spade to dummy's king. East took the ace (it would not have helped him to play low) and was then forced to yield the contract. If he returned a low spade, South would let it run to dummy's ten, and if he returned a diamond instead, South would ruff in one hand and discard his spade loser from the other.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	05:42pm	05:12pm	05:48pm	05:09pm	05:17pm	05:44pm
Sunrise	06:39am	06:31am	06:43am	06:23am	06:38am	06:48am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow			Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook	Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	13	28	Sunny	57	13	28	Sunny	13	28	Sunny
Hyderabad	15	32	Sunny	37	15	32	Sunny	15	32	Sunny
Islamabad	11	26	Sunny	45	11	25	Sunny	10	25	Sunny
Lahore	12	28	Sunny	57	13	28	Sunny	12	27	Sunny
Multan	13	29	Sunny	62	13	28	Sunny	13	28	Sunny
Peshawar	10	26	Sunny	40	10	25	Sunny	10	25	Sunny
Quetta	3	18	Sunny	32	3	18	Sunny	3	18	Sunny

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.